Mr. Jim Naughton
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Naughton,

Don DeLillo and I got real kicks out of your Style piece on him for the same reason, the con job he did on you. And, of course, multitudes of others.

I've heard from and spoken to thousands of people who all say the same thing - they can't forget where they were when they first heard of JFK's assassination and when it was. DeLillo is the single exception in my considerable experience.

It was, he told you, "in the morning." It was 12:30 p.m. Dallas time, 1:30 p.m. where DeLillo lives.

Yardley was quite correct, it is an exploitation on a subject I regard as indecent for exploitation. You and the Post are among the specially exploited.

This crap does not come from the Warren Commission's record, as he represents. I believe he saw the potential of this ripoff of the national mind while he ripped the pockets off. "Breakthrough novel" indeed!(When he did a magazine piece.)

The basic idea is cribbed from a work by the French SDECE, roughly their CIA. As published in French, "L'Amerique Brule." As republished in English the title was changed, at Jim Garrison's suggestion, to "Farewell America."

The idea that JFK was to have been missed and the general notion of the non-assassination comes from "Appointment In Dallas," dreamed up by the most talented liar and con man I've ever met, Hugh McDonald. So also does the three CIA men, no more and no less, come from him and his fakery, presented as nonfiction. And Cuba

The Branch character comes from John L. Hart, called back from retirement by the CIA to make the study for it to which he testified before the House Select Committee on ~~intelligence~~ assassinations on national TV, with enormous attention everywhere.

The details of much of the rest that I saw in your peice and in reviews that have been sent me come from an assortment of prior publications by many people, not forgetting Jim Garrison.

Of his alleged study of the Warren Commission's 26 volumes he told you, "It gave me a kind of insight into the patriculars of the lives of people who testified. What it is like to work in a train yard in Dallas in 1963?" (From Mark Lane who, by the way, along with Don Freed, cribbed "Farewell America" in their "Executive Action.") What is it like to be a waitress, a prostitute (none in those 26), a ~~rpibate~~ private detective (also none in the 26)? All of this comes flowing forth from the page, verbatim, with regional speech patterns...." Remarkable! Because the Commission avoided these things. (And by far most of those 26 ~~is~~ are not of live testimony anywhere.)

He told you that Oswald was stationed at a base in Japan where he had access to information on the U2. He was at Atsugi as a radar operator and had no such access. Garrison and others said he did.

"DeLillo imagines him contacting Japanese and then Soviet intelligence agents ..." His "imagination" is Ed Epstein's "Legend." Very well publicized, that book.

DeLillo says Oswald took a shot at General Walker. If DeLillo had really used the Warren evidence he'd have known that the slug removed from the ~~Wa~~ wall of Walker's home was .30 caliber and would not fit in Oswald's smaller-bore rifle.

None of that stuff on Ferrie comes from the Commission's publication, not a bit of it. It comes from the published garbage and that only. And there is more.

You are innocent in this but the Post has helped get wide attention to another

of the many frauds, which, along with the sycophantic works of alleged nonfiction are the real commercializations of that great tragedy.

More is coming and I hope the Post, particularly Style and Show, will be more alert and discriminating. At least two are being worked on for TV and I suspect that in addition at least one with respectable auspices will be seriously flawed. I know of one good one, British, and one exceptional job which has not yet been contracted that is a graduate thesis in communications.

George Lardner has a good knowledge of the field and he may well be able to confirm some of what I say above about his cribbing that DeLillo says is his own imagination.

Boy does he have to be laughing at you and the Post for your flattering use of all those fine speeches he made! all the way to the bank.

My own work in the field, of which I have no reason to believe you know, is not the pursuit of whodunits. It is a large study of the way our basic institutions, of which the press is one, when tested in that time of great crisis and since then. As George will tell you, I've spent much time and effort in FOIA litigation and brought to light a considerable part of those many records that had been withheld for years. (By the way, his figure of 125,000 pages is far wrong, too.)

As a former reporter I regret very much that from the outset the press has not met its obligations and still refuses to. No reference to you personally here. You are not the first and won't be the last.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

P.S. I'm sure George will also remember that I was the source for him and for others in debunking unjustified criticisms of the official investigations.